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SBOH-4, Shirley Schnabel
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{SIDE 1 OF TAPE STARTS}

NICOLE: {beginning words cut off} Shirley Schnabel and I'm going to start the interview now. The first couple of questions are about your family and stuff like that. Basically, where were you born and when?

SHIRLEY: I was born in Marysville, June 6 1912.

NICOLE: What other members of your family were born in the Buttes?

SHIRLEY: None of us were born in the Buttes.

NICOLE: You were born in Marysville?

SHIRLEY: Our home. {inaudible}

NICOLE: Your home? {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

NICOLE: How long has the land in the Buttes been in your family?

MARGIT: 1898.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: Oh, {inaudible} the ranch been in the family.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

MARGIT: Yeah, 1898.

SHIRLEY: You got that?

MARGIT: Yeah that's the - I don't know what part of 1898 but its 1898.

NICOLE: Do you know how the land came into your family's possession?

MARGIT: Tell how Grandpa bought the land.

SHIRLEY: Well, it's from a livery stable man. It was horse and buggy days and he ordered his horses and {inaudible} at the livery stable. And this man took the land in on a bad debt. And so he sold it to my father. And that's how he got possession of it.

RANDOLPH: Did you put the price down?

SHIRLEY: I never heard the price.

RANDOLPH: Its three thousand dollars.

SHIRLEY: He--

RANDOLPH: {overlapping} A thousand dollars a year, for three years.

SHIRLEY: See he knows, I don't.

RANDOLPH: Well, I was there.

SHIRLEY: Oh yeah {laughing}.

NICOLE: How was it passed down to you? From your father?

SHIRLEY: Yes.

NICOLE: Do you know what year was it given to you, or passed to you?

MARGIT: It was, he about died in 1968--

SHIRLEY: Was it '58?

MARGIT: '68

SHIRLEY: '68.

MARGIT: Um-hmm.

SHIRLEY: I don't remember.

MARGIT: Why, I was in college I remember.

SHIRLEY: You remember?

MARGIT: Yeah, {inaudible} years.

NICOLE: I don't know if you want me to ask this question, but, did any of your family pass on the land in the Buttes?

MARGIT: Did they die you mean actually on the ranch?

NICOLE: Yeah.

SHIRLEY: No not the family. We had a hired man die up there, but no family.

MARGIT: Now tell the story about the hired man.

SHIRLEY: He- in those days you know they didn't have welfare or anything. And so he worked there for us, and we had him stay up in the Buttes. We had pigs up there, and he was to take care of -- when we moved the cattle and everything out that day, and don't push them everything they didn't get back up till about two weeks. And he was not there, and the old dog hadn't been fed. He ended up {inaudible} then they had to hunt for him. And they finally found his glasses and parts of his clothing. He had died and rolled down into the creek, and I guess the pigs had worked him over. There was only pieces of bits that they found, and they found the rifle, he had probably gone out rabbit hunting. And after that {inaudible} just popped down and rolled down into the creek.

RANDOLPH: What was his name, Old Dan?

SHIRLEY: Yeah, but don't ask me his last name

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: My folks took him in and gave him a home and this job in the summer time of taking care of the ranch up there.

MARGIT: Was that in the '20s?

SHIRLEY: When he worked?

RANDOLPH: Who was sheriff at the time?

SHIRLEY: Burt Ulrich.

RANDOLPH: Burt who?

SHIRLEY: Ulrich.

RANDOLPH: Oh, yeah.

MARGIT: Well, when would it be, the '20s?

RANDOLPH: It was before we all were in the ranch. {inaudible.}

SHIRLEY: I don't know dates.

NICOLE: Does anybody in your family still live up there in the property?

SHIRLEY: No.

MARGIT: No one lives there.

NICOLE: It's not habitable anymore?

MARGIT: Well, it is. There is a lack of water in the summer.

SHIRLEY: No electricity.

NICOLE: When did people stop living up there?

SHIRLEY: Well it was all homesteaded the Buttes were. See I don't know when this -- you know what I don't know. But all the areas around were all homesteaded. They stayed there 'til they worked up the homestead and they'd sell and move out.

RANDOLPH: They couldn't make a living.

SHIRLEY: There's no way to make a living.

MARGIT: Well my, my friend there used to go up in October, November and live there until May.

SHIRLEY: Well it was usually right after Christmas they moved up there.

MARGIT: Exactly. Christmas.

SHIRLEY: They moved the cows up there and milked cows while the grass was good. Milked cows 'til about, depending on the year

SHIRLEY: Like this year they're getting later.

MARGIT: Yeah.

SHIRLEY: And someone would just drive them down in April.

MARGIT: And that's when Dan would stay up there, after they moved out.

SHIRLEY: After they moved out. And the road was terrible, so they didn't make to many trips in and out. Since, though the road has been improved a great deal. Before we climbed from rock to rock to get there {laughing}. It was rough. Took us an hour from that lower gate up to the ranch.

MARGIT: You could go just about as fast as you were riding a horse, as you could in a car {laughing} or a pickup.

NICOLE: Did you spend any time up there on the property while you were growing up?

SHIRLEY: Yes, I did. I was six when my mother pulled me out of the first grade, and I spent that year up there. Ride my horse, do whatever's necessary.

MARGIT: Well you talk about helping with the hay up there. In the {inaudible} that you tipped over?

SHIRLEY: Well that was planting it.

RANDOLPH: Planting it.

MARGIT: Yeah.

SHIRLEY: Well it was in the fall. {inaudible} and {inaudible} out again. We had a bunch of horses, I think {inaudible} a team of four. And Bill, he was driving another team of four. So he was the helper, if I got into trouble he was to come help me {laughing}. And he got into trouble when I got into trouble.

NICOLE: Where'd you go to school at?

SHIRLEY: Went out to {sounds like Briton or Breton?} which is in Sutter.

NICOLE: Was that for elementary or high school?

SHIRLEY: Elementary and high school. Sutter Union High School and sounds like Briton or Breton?} Elementary.

NICOLE: Was it hard to get to school? Or was it far away from your house, I mean?

SHIRLEY: We usually stayed down at the other ranch, and somebody would take us to school.

MARGIT: Well you talk about going in the buggy and having someone else come racing by in another buggy--

SHIRLEY: That was fun. We had a pretty good old horse that could trot. And this other fellow he thought he had a good horse that could trot, but we could out-trot him {laughing}. Yeah, he was taking his kids to school. My sister drove out – it was a cart, so three of us rode in a cart.

MARGIT: You got Bea, or Dorothy?

SHIRLEY: Bea. Dorothy is too much older.

NICOLE: Was the land farmed or ranched by your family, or was it leased out?

MARGIT: It was, it was done by the family.

MARGIT: So, Grandpa had to cut wood to help for payment on-

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} The payment on the place. He had so many cords of wood--

RANDOLPH: {overlapping} Well I don't know this.

SHIRLEY: Yeah he told me, he had to cut so many cords of wood.

RANDOLPH: Yeah.

SHIRLEY: Sold it to the fellow he bought it from, plus his payment. I think that was for three years he had to cut wood for him.

NICOLE: Today is it still worked by your family or do you lease it out?

SHIRLEY: She's doing it. She's doing it {laughter}.

MARGIT: Yeah, so it's worked by our family still.

NICOLE: What was it, farmed or ranched? Sheep or--

MARGIT: {overlapping} We happen to have cattle. And then we have hay that's all wet right now. We couldn't get it, couldn't get it put up {inaudible} before the rains came.

SHIRLEY: {Coughing} it was an awful hard rain yesterday, it's going to be {inaudible}.

MARGIT: I know, close to a half inch a day.

NICOLE: Does the land take like a lot of maintenance, like keeping it clear from fire, or from people?

SHIRLEY: Keeping the fences up.

SHIRLEY: It's a big job. The cattle, they push on them. Go to the neighbors, you know the other side is greener. Either ours or their field, they still want to go out.

NICOLE: Besides the fences, is there any other land maintenance that's tough to handle?

MARGIT: Well, we're always working on the road, and he spent a lot of time working on the road. And now because it's a good four miles of dirt road. And um I guess-

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} Now it don't take us an hour.

MARGIT: No, no.

SHIRLEY: Twenty minutes and we can-

MARGIT: Now, now that there's only two gates {inaudible} it's a lot faster to go in than the six or seven. That's in the wintertime.

SHIRLEY: You don't know about opening gates. You stop, get out, open the gate, get back in drive through, stop, get out again, go back close the gate. And there were six of them. That takes a lot of time.

NICOLE: Yeah, that is quite a bit of gates.

RANDOLPH: She should go over and drive around.

SHIRLEY: {laughing} She should go over and ride in.

MARGIT: Well then also in the maintenance is the barns. There's-

SHIRLEY: {inaudible}

MARGIT: They have big barns. And so, they just put in an end, well the end of one of them this year. And one barn, how about the Union Lumber Company?

SHIRLEY: You probably know more about it than I do. You been showing it to your groups!

MARGIT: Well one of the owners before my grandfather was the Union Lumber Company. And they had built this barn...

RANDOLPH: 1860.

MARGIT: You know that date for sure?

RANDOLPH: Yeah, 1860.

MARGIT: 1860. I can't even say 1860s, I didn't know for sure. And it was, oh, a hundred yards long maybe? Well maybe not quite.

RANDOLPH: It was several hundred feet long.

MARGIT: Yeah.

SHIRLEY: Well that barn extended clear almost to the brown corral.

MARGIT: Yes.

SHIRLEY: And they housed the oxen up there that they used to you know, haul in the lumber.

RANDOLPH: All of Yuba County.

SHIRLEY: Yuba County. We still find ox shoes in the, where the rains come and pound on the earth. So, there's a lot of oxen up there.

MARGIT: That barn is put together with the peg and, trying to think, drill the hole and drop the peg in, instead of nails and bolts.

RANDOLPH: She should see some of these things.

MARGIT: Yeah, she needs to come up and see it first hand

SHIRLEY: Stand her up with the {inaudible} {laughing}.

MARGIT: Yeah, {laughing}.

NICOLE: Well, maybe if you guys want to later, after this is over, it's up to you. I have time today. Well, what kind of childhood memories do you have of the land?

SHIRLEY: I always enjoyed them. I had a horse, I could ride all around. And then I helped with the cows and things as much as they would allow me, or make me do {laughing}.

MARGIT: What was one of your winter pastimes? Wading in the creeks?

SHIRLEY: Oh, yeah. Our granddaughter did that.

MARGIT: Yeah, she waded in the creeks, I waded in the creeks, and my daughter waded in the creeks, its just so much fun. The creeks, and the roads. Oh, what about your camping trip?

SHIRLEY: {Laughing} My camping trip with Dot Edgar?

MARGIT: Um-hmm.

SHIRLEY: It was just Dot and I and Frank {sound like Corell or Corolla?}. So we were going to go camp out, oh {inaudible}, he'd just laugh and he went along with us. We were on horseback, so we camped out and we cooked over a fire and made our breakfast. And then, he guided us clear up to top of South Butte from the north side which is very brushy and I don't know how we got up there but we did. So that was our great experience

MARGIT: So were you in high school?

SHIRLEY: {inaudible}

MARGIT: Yeah.

SHIRLEY: I've got to call him.

MARGIT: That's his mother.

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: Yeah. So Dot Edgar was your teacher?

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: And Frank {sound like Corell or Corolla?} was a-

SHIRLEY: Frank was a handyman and he helped out with the ranch lots of times.

RANDOLPH: So did the hired hand.

SHIRLEY: Hired hand and all those things. Hay was done by pitch fork, they shoved it around with a pitchfork, nothing else.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible} bales. You pile it all loose on the wagon and you pitch it into the barn. {inaudible}.

SHIRLEY: She don't know anything about it.

MARGIT: No, no she still has to come and see and visualize.

SHIRLEY: We don't have any pictures, do we?

MARGIT: Not of those old-

SHIRLEY: Well there's one of Frank {sound like Corell or Corolla?} throwing hay into the barn.

MARGIT: I think I have the albums at my house.

SHIRLEY: Well, up in the Buttes they have rattlesnakes. And then they'd mow hay, and they put it in shocks, little round hills. So when they can by with the wagon they'd pitch that up into the wagon. Well they also pitched rattlesnakes up on the wagon too. And my father was the one that usually loaded the wagon, and he had a fit "Why you throwing that snake up here for?"

MARGIT: It probably was not a very happy snake when it got up there

SHIRLEY: I think he was mad by then. Particularly when it was cool and nice, that's when the rattlesnakes are out.

NICOLE: Do you know any stories or folktales related to the Buttes, even Native American ones related to them?

MARGIT: Do you know any Indian stories?

SHIRLEY: No, nope I don't know any.

MARGIT: What about Huffy's ghost? {name?} says that's a story you know?

SHIRLEY: {Laughing} No, that was only his imagination.

MARGIT: His imagination?

SHIRLEY: He would always go home before dark, because he'd run right past the area of Huffy's ghost.

MARGIT: Huffy was a homesteader--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} A homesteader right next to us. At that time there was a cabin and some fruit trees there.

MARGIT: There's still some fruit trees.

SHIRLEY: Are they still alive?

MARGIT: There's still a few alive.

SHIRLEY: And {inaudible} disintegrated. Many fires that burnt things up. Anyway, he'd come over to help us, then he'd have to ride home. Which is down up towards Pass Road. And he was always worried about Huffy's ghost, he went through there fast.

NICOLE: Do you know any other stories or tales of anything?

MARGIT: You can't think of any?

SHIRLEY: I didn't really tell any. It was just regular every day happenings.

NICOLE: Did the neighbors and landowners in the Buttes, did they socialize together?

MARGIT: Oh, talk about Piemmes. They homesteaded and-

SHIRLEY: Oh, I was in college when he came up here from {sounds like Sonoma's Butte?}. And he built his cabin. And it had a--

RANDOLPH: {overlapping} It had a spring up there on the {inaudible}.

SHIRLEY: Yeah, but there was - how many children did they have? They have all of them? I guess they did?

MARGIT: Yes.

SHIRLEY: Four of them?

MARGIT: Because the little one was a baby.

SHIRLEY: I don't even remember everybody.

RANDOLPH: I had those kids in school.

SHIRLEY: Yes, I heard it. Unless they homesteaded on it then moved down. And I had one of his sons in school, and he had {inaudible}.

NICOLE: So it was just mainly the kids that played together in school?

SHIRLEY: It was his family.

RANDOLPH: Four kids?

SHIRLEY: Four, yeah.

MARGIT: Three boys and there was a girl?

SHIRLEY: Yeah, we didn't get to {inaudible}.

MARGIT: But the father, there was a couple things that you did there at the ranch house?

SHIRLEY: Well, they helped him and he helped them.

RANDOLPH: He was a painter by trade.

SHIRLEY: Painter of glass?

RANDOLPH: The Robertson's paid him.

SHIRLEY: Robertson, he was a glass-

MARGIT: Glazer.

SHIRLEY: Glazer.

MARGIT: This was in the 1930s. One of the last homesteads, I think. Wasn't it?

SHIRLEY: I think so. We didn't even know it was available. Till he showed up and said he was a homesteader. Course he had to build his house up there and haul everything up there.

NICOLE: What was his name? I didn't quite catch it.

SHIRLEY: Elmer {sounds like Murss?}, on the east side of North Butte.

MARGIT: It's Piemme and it's a French name.

NICOLE: Piemme?

SHIRLEY: P-i-e-m-m-e.

NICOLE: Ok, I'll have to ask some more about that.

MARGIT: I have the information too.

SHIRLEY: We invited the kids to come. I've gotten contacts from Murray, Cody, and Frank.

MARGIT: Yeah. About three or four years ago I guess the boys, "the boys" {laughing}. They're in their eighties and aging down a little bit. But they came and - oh and I think he had kind of a crush on you.

SHIRLEY: I didn't know that.

MARGIT: {laughing} I think so.

SHIRLEY: That's what he told me and Oscar. I didn't know it. Anyway, they came and were telling about living up there. They would catch rattlesnakes, and the family would take them down to Marysville and sell them to the china men, they would eat them. It's a - they got the name that it was a rattlesnake farm. It wasn't a farm, these kids just went out and caught them and put them in big barrel, and they took them down and sold them. It was fun when they came.

MARGIT: Yeah.

SHIRLEY: It was.

NICOLE: Well, did any of the ranching families did they do any business together?

MARGIT: Well, you had a community telephone line.

SHIRLEY: Oh yeah. It was from the {inaudible} down by {inaudible}. It went over to Davis's over Pass Road. When it went to Davis' then {inaudible}.

MARGIT: Were {inaudible}in on that too?

SHIRLEY: No, no. Just the Davis' and us.

MARGIT: Where the {inaudible}.

SHIRLEY: And then something would go through and tear the line down--

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: {inaudible} to big and to tall for our phone lines. Somebody have to go hurry up to where it was broken and fix it up again. But that was a chore just keeping that phone working. It gave them contact with the outside, and it was hard for them to get in and out...but as I said that road took an hour to go one way on it. Now its twenty minutes or even less.

NICOLE: Was there any other group things like that, making life easier in the Buttes?

MARGIT: Did you do other things with the landowners up there?

SHIRLEY: I don't think so, we were just friendly with all of them. Like the Kennans, who were good neighbors.

NICOLE: You were friendly with everybody, had your own business concerns? You did your own business, you didn't really partner with anybody else?

SHIRLEY: Right, no, it's all {inaudible}. My father milked cows, and that's how he made his living. From milking cows we went into the cow and calf business is what she is doing now. You know what cow calf is? No. That's terrible, she don't know anything! {laughing}

[Personal conversation related to interviewer edited out]

NICOLE: How did you guys get water during the winter or during the summer?

SHIRLEY: Springs, on the ranch.

NICOLE: Was there only spring on your ranch?

SHIRLEY: Yes.

NICOLE: On the other ones, were there springs on the other ones?

SHIRLEY: Yes, some of them had good springs on their ranches.

RANDOLPH: Uncle John improved their spring up there.

SHIRLEY: Well when they improved it, they make a catch basin so they would pour the water in it, and that's where they would get water. And then at the house, they built - metal didn't last

long with this water, it just sort of eroded it right away. So they had a metal tank and it trapped the water if got from the spring, so we'd have some for later on. Water the animals, water the yard.

MARGIT: {sounds like Baree, or Greta} was saying that they'd have to go up there because it had good running water, because the spring is up on the hillside and so it runs down to the house. So it was actual running water and there was a bathtub that you could-

SHIRLEY: A bathtub? We didn't have a bathtub down below. That was a big treat to get in a bathtub. Course the water was heated with a wood stove. And we didn't get a lot of hot water.

NICOLE: You said there was not a lot of water during the summer, so-

SHIRLEY: Well, it would really slow down in the summer. So the animals all went out, the cattle ran out, because they couldn't, there wasn't water or feed for them.

NICOLE: Are there any structures on the land?

SHIRLEY: Oh yes. She was mentioning the barns, and the house.

MARGIT: The house? Well there was the original house, it was part of the Union Lumber company built?

SHIRLEY: I don't know. I don't know when they came in.

MARGIT: But her comment was it breathes with wind.

SHIRLEY: {laughing} Dang old walls went in and out. It's a wonder it stood up at all.

MARGIT: But it burned and so then they built the one that's up there now.

SHIRLEY: It was built with nails and nails.

RANDOLPH: Square nails.

SHIRLEY: No, they weren't square nails.

MARGIT: Not in the house.

SHIRLEY: Not in the house. Tom {sounds like curfew} built that and he just pounded the nails in.

MARGIT: That was in 1919.

NICOLE: And you said new structures like maybe barns had been added, since?

MARGIT: Well the Union Lumber Company built the--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} The big long barn.

MARGIT: And then grandpa built the other two barns?

SHIRLEY: Yes.

MARGIT: Which one first.

RANDOLPH: Red barn.

SHIRLEY: Was it the red barn or the wagon shed?

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: The one he helped build, yes. Well the Union Lumber Company had a little shed there where they shod their oxen. Do you know how they shoe oxen? They lift them up, so they can't put their feet on the ground, and they shoe them. And they're cloven hoof, so they got to put a shoe on each side of the cloven hoof. You're going to learn those? {laughing}

[Personal conversation related to interviewer edited out]

NICOLE: Have you spent a lot of time up there still? You said you still worked the land. Do you ever go up and visit or anything?

MARGIT: She'll come up and ride the horse every now and then.

SHIRLEY: You know how old I am? It was a lot getting on a horse. I got a picture of my good old horse. There he is. {Looking at photos}

NICOLE: He's pretty.

SHIRLEY: And there he is eating grass. Right here you see the stuff here? This is what we call the long barn.

NICOLE: Oh, okay. That's really rocky.

MARGIT: Well this is where {name?} built the rock wall, and there's a creek that goes through here. They were trying to build a rock wall.

SHIRLEY: This is the house that we built.

NICOLE: So that was the one you were saying after the first one burnt down?

MARGIT: Yeah, this one was built in 1919.

NICOLE: Yeah, seeing pictures does help me to kind of make sense of this.

MARGIT: You should've mentioned that on the phone because I could've got the photo albums. I didn't even think about it.

SHIRLEY: You like my dog. She's a cow dog, but I don't get out there very much so she doesn't get to work very much.

RANDOLPH: Your dog is under the table now.

SHIRLEY: No she's not, she's outside. Batteries run dead yet?

NICOLE: One died. This one is still going though, which is good. Do you know anything about the rock walls in the Buttes? I went on a hike up there and I saw them all over.

SHIRLEY: Well, I've heard various things. Some said the Chinese built them. And others, the people themselves built them, because that was their fence. That was their fencing material. So they built them so they could corral their animals, and not have them run lose all over. So we got rock walls, and she was fixing some up the other day.

MARGIT: Yeah, it was Middle Mountain Foundation. We had a work day so we worked on one of the rock walls. It made a big difference.

NICOLE: So they're still used to basically keep as fences?

MARGIT: Yeah. They've only been working on these as a horse pasture now. Well, there's two sides of it. It was there originally, so we just used it. It's part of the field, the fence.

RANDOLPH: There's some theories about the rock walls. The Chinese were not involved to any extent in building them, they were too smart. And the hired men that came over to--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} He's talking about the Germans.

RANDOLPH: These German hired men, that came over here to {inaudible}. You know what that means? You know when they came over it's, they paid their way helping on the ranches. And some of them, like the {name, starts with a T} {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: What'd they tell you, they had to build so many rods a day?

RANDOLPH: Yeah, a rod a day. And they were paid a dollar a day for the rod of rock wall.

SHIRLEY: And they have a stone boat that they put the rocks in.

NICOLE: How long is a rod?

RANDOLPH: Sixteen and a half feet. Now these are your languages you'll have to learn. Yeah. Now, I was a teacher of history for a long time, and I've written about these rock walls and so on and so forth. And it's in our monthly magazine we have in the museum. And there's a lot of local stories on the books. But, but you know - this big husky Dutchman is, wouldn't earn a living by working on a ranch for a dollar a day.

SHIRLEY: {inaudible}

RANDOLPH: I don't know if they were Chinese, or merchants, they were more-

SHIRLEY: I think most of the ranchers built their own walls with their own help. But it's a trick to build those walls, to make them stay. And stay all those years that they've stayed, because they have to balance those rocks just so.

NICOLE: Where did the rocks come from?

SHIRLEY: Well, it's a volcanic area.

MARGIT: And so there's lots of rocks. There's just rocks all over.

RANDOLPH: Are you going to visit some of these areas that they're talking about?

MARGIT: Yeah, she needs to come up and get a visual.

NICOLE: I've been on one of the Middle Mountain Foundation hikes, with another girl in my class. So I saw the area and everything. But, I haven't seen your property, so the structures and everything I don't really know about.

MARGIT: Do you remember where you went?

NICOLE: There was a pond and a really long road, and lots of gates.

MARGIT: Yeah, that's our place. Because most of the hikes are on our place. Do you remember who your guide was?

NICOLE: Somebody from Sac State, I think.

MARGIT: Oh, Brian?

NICOLE: Yeah.

MARGIT: Okay. You got the rock history.

SHIRLEY: He told you all about the rocks. Well, then you saw the rocks, you had to walk through them to get anyplace. So they gathered up the rocks, and built a fence. They had what

the called a stone boat which is a thing that slid along, and horses pull it, and so they could pull the rocks up where the fence was.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible} she doesn't, I am. {inaudible} horse, to or a pair of horse, a team, and I'd go with the team ahead. And the team would stop, the load these rocks {inaudible}. And then they'd take them over where they were building the fence, and unroll them and stack them up on the fence a bit. It was all a part of, I mean part of a {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: Lifting, heavy lifting.

RANDOLPH: And the people that we had asked to repair those, they would {inaudible}.

MARGIT: {inaudible}

SHIRLEY: It's a trick to really balance those rocks in there.

RANDOLPH: They're not all the same size. If you look at rock walls, usually there bigger and bigger when they're on the bottom. {inaudible}.

NICOLE: What kind of wildlife do you usually see up in the Buttes?

SHIRLEY: Deer. Pigs. They don't call them wildlife, they're pests, feral pigs. Coyotes.

MARGIT: Fox?

SHIRLEY: I haven't seen fox lately.

MARGIT: Certainly you've seen them.

SHIRLEY: Somebody told me the coyotes killed them all.

MARGIT: I don't know, but there's been fox there.

SHIRLEY: They've been on there when we had the one pet we took up there.

MARGIT: It was raccoon?

SHIRLEY: Raccoon.

MARGIT: Named Tails.

SHIRLEY: Did you ever take care of that raccoon that you {inaudible}?

MARGIT: I don't know if he did or not. There's, you know, all kinds of birds; golden eagles, vultures, and all the song birds.

SHIRLEY: Golden eagle?

NICOLE: Have you noticed like a decrease in the amount of animals that are from when you were little, to, up to now? Is there less animals there now then there was when you were younger, up on your ranch? Like wild animals?

MARGIT: Is there more deer now, then there were?

SHIRLEY: No. There are more deer now, yes.

MARGIT: Yeah, there's more now.

SHIRLEY: Yeah. But there are more coyotes I think. They came out here to the house, and we always had to worry about the dogs, if they'd kill them.

MARGIT: Seems like there's plenty of coyotes now.

SHIRLEY: There's plenty now. See them all the time.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

MARGIT: It wasn't inside the other house, you mean?

NICOLE: Why do you think there are so many rattlesnakes up there?

SHIRLEY: Well that's just where they been all their lives. And they propagate. Oh, we'd kill them when they'd come in round the house. If they're out in the field I don't bother them, because they do there lots of good work. Gophers and mice.

MARGIT: And the ground squirrels too? Ground squirrels.

SHIRLEY: They'd go down in their holes, but I don't know if they'd kill them or not.

MARGIT: We had one year there was, it was a - it was hoof, was it hoof and mouth? It was a disease that the deer had.

SHIRLEY: But for the deer, I don't think, they didn't call it hoof and mouth.

MARGIT: We ended up putting, was it lime? Then when they came in for water, {inaudible}.

SHIRLEY: It's just hard to control them.

NICOLE: Were you or any of your family members ever bit by rattlesnakes when you were up there?

SHIRLEY: No, there weren't any. We had dogs, we had cattle get bitten by them.

MARGIT: {inaudible} had a horse? {inaudible}.

SHIRLEY: I don't know, did they bite the horse in the nose? I think they bit her face, and by then it was usually pretty deadly. They bite them in the legs, they usually survive. But that swells everything up and they can't breathe.

NICOLE: Do you know why the feral pigs are in the Buttes? Or who put them there?

SHIRLEY: What's she saying?

MARGIT: The feral pigs.

SHIRLEY: I don't like them.

MARGIT: They were turned loose by a neighbor.

SHIRLEY: They just, they plow up the ground. They just terrible.

MARGIT: I think they were thinking of for hunting or something. They only turned like four loose. {inaudible}

NICOLE: What neighbor?

MARGIT: I just don't think we should say.

SHIRLEY: No, we won't say, but I know who did it. And I'm not very happy with him.

NICOLE: Do you know about what time they got released?

MARGIT: It was the '70s, I think.

SHIRLEY: I should have taken it over and taking him to {inaudible}.

MARGIT: {inaudible}

NICOLE: Do you think anything can be done about them?

SHIRLEY: I'd wish you tell me. I'd like to know.

NICOLE: Has anybody tried to do anything?

SHIRLEY: Well I have one young man who hunts them all the time, trying to keep the quantity down. But, a pig has eight or seven in a litter. And they have nine of the litters in a year. How are we going to control them?

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

MARGIT: They breed prolifically.

NICOLE: Do you know of any past property issues or disputes related to water rights?

SHIRLEY: Cash crop.

NICOLE: No, no. Like issues or disputes related to water rights?

MARGIT: In the Buttes?

NICOLE: Yeah.

MARGIT: There's dams and ponds up there, and-

SHIRLEY: They have to be registered.

MARGIT: Yeah. And I know Marty's having trouble, because his is bigger than ours', so it has to meet other standards, so he's having trouble bringing it up to standards.

SHIRLEY: I don't think they registered it when they first did it.

MARGIT: I don't know about--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} Thanks to Phyllis Kellogg, she said you registered that. And so you did.

NICOLE: Have you ever had any problems with trespassers or securing the land against them?

SHIRLEY: All the time. They came in, and stole all of the antiques out of the house. {inaudible} forgotten they had.

NICOLE: When did that happen?

MARGIT: Well, it's not just a one time. It's several times. They'd break in to the house. And one time apparently they took the pot-bellied stove?

SHIRLEY: Put it on a bicycle!

MARGIT: Took it out on a bicycle.

SHIRLEY: Shouldn't have taken it out

MARGIT: Well she heard that they - the guy said "oh, there's two people on the bike." It's a potbellied stove. Wasn't too heavy, because it wasn't--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} Oh those guys that came in from the north are the ones that ripped everything off. They took the old kerosene lamps, they took anything that was an antique.

RANDOLPH: And a rocking chair.

MARGIT: Yeah {name?} rocking chair.

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: A {inaudible} rocker.

NICOLE: Guys from the north?

SHIRLEY: They stole and sold it I guess.

MARGIT: I guess they came in from the north side.

SHIRLEY: They came in a jeep so they could load it up. Loaded the things up and took them out.

MARGIT: One time they came in, because we always keep some canned goods up there just in case you get, you know you end up having to stay the night sometime. And, I think they just punched--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} Punched holes in all the cans so they'd spoil. Nice people.

RANDOLPH: Those were kids, that's kid stuff.

NICOLE: Did this stuff happen during the summer when you guys would leave?

MARGIT: Well, sometimes it happened, it wasn't any. But sometimes it would happen during deer season. And one time they came and got the knives and the sheets, so we figured that was deer hunters that were-

SHIRLEY: Took all the knives, the butcher knives.

NICOLE: Did you ever have problems with people besides in your house, on the lands around? Or messing with your cattle?

SHIRLEY: We do, but we've never bothered them.

MARGIT: There hasn't been.

SHIRLEY: Well when they break into the house that's a different story.

MARGIT: Well it used to be it was fine to go and ride over on your neighbor's property. That used to be just fine. Didn't think about calling and telling them you'd be doing that, it was just an accepted thing. But now its not.

SHIRLEY: You don't do that.

MARGIT: It's just, you know a sign of different times.

NICOLE: Because of all of this have you made any changes in how you secure your property? Or your house?

SHIRLEY: No matter how you secure it they're going to get in, if they want to.

MARGIT: There's more locks.

SHIRLEY: There's locks, and we keep things under lock. But before everything was wide open, we never locked anything. Same way here, we never locked our doors. Do now. Have them locked.

RANDOLPH: And they use a padlock too.

NICOLE: Do you have any thoughts on the new state park? And do you think the land should be open to the public? The Peace Valley one.

SHIRLEY: I don't hear what she said.

MARGIT: She's asking about Peace Valley, the park.

SHIRLEY: I don't approve.

Me. Why don't you approve?

SHIRLEY: They don't take care of the grass, and grass grows big and tall, and it's a big fire hazard. And we're on the south side if them, and when those strong north winds come, where do you think the fires are going to go? And grass this year is tall, and thick. It's going to be a terrible year for a fire. And then I don't think they let you hunt the pigs on their place, which I'd like to get rid of. So, those two things are - and if they let all the public in, a fence doesn't mean anything to them, it being their property as well as well as the park's property. {Phone rings} You better get it {inaudible}.

NICOLE: You just think the land shouldn't be open to the public?

SHIRLEY: Have you seen how the public takes care of land? The litter? And the way they treat it? No.

RANDOLPH: Nobody {inaudible}.

MARGIT: I didn't answer it. Didn't push the right buttons. The way the state park is set up right now is acceptable for people-wise because it's guided access only.

{SIDE 1 OF TAPE ENDS}

{SIDE 2 OF TAPE STARTS}

MARGIT: Yeah, {inaudible}.

SHIRLEY: But they don't graze it.

MARGIT: No, that's an issue.

SHIRLEY: And the grass is yay high, and the late rains, its just all lots of grass. If there a fire, nothings going to stop it.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible} How did her parents make a living on that land up there? They milked cows, and sold the cream.

SHIRLEY: That's what they did. And they also sold the animals too.

RANDOLPH: Well, sold the animals.

SHIRLEY: Yeah. They put a number of children through college.

MARGIT: It was all of you who went to, no, did Ralph go to college?

SHIRLEY: He thought he could learn much at home as he could at Davis.

NICOLE: I probably should have asked this before, but how many brothers and sister do you have?

MARGIT: How many brothers and sisters?

SHIRLEY: Now I only have one brother and one sister; there were five of us all together. With two brothers and two sisters.

NICOLE: Were you an oldest child?

SHIRLEY: No, I'm {inaudible}

MARGIT: Second to the youngest.

NICOLE: What were the names of your brothers and sisters?

SHIRLEY: You want their given names?

NICOLE: Just their first names.

SHIRLEY: Their first names. Let's see - Dorothy was the oldest one, then Ralph, then my sister Greta, me, and my brother Henry. I'm having a hard time recalling it.

RANDOLPH: There was photograph in there of one their daughters taken over {inaudible}.

MARGIT: Over a bus?

SHIRLEY: That's me and Cassius {looking at photos}.

MARGIT: See, this is her sister, that's just older than her.

NICOLE: Who's Cassius?

SHIRLEY: He's a cousin.

NICOLE: Did you have lots of cousins and everything around here?

SHIRLEY: Yes.

MARGIT: We always come across them. They just cousins.

SHIRLEY: They had big families in the beginning. How many were there in Grandpa's?

MARGIT: How many brothers and sisters did he have?

SHIRLEY: Yeah. And then Grandma {sounds like slag?} had a bunch of them too. 'Cause there's only one boy and my Grandfather said he was tired of hearing the swish of skirts, because everyone wore those starched skirts and everything. You don't know how easy you have it that you can wear pants.

RANDOLPH: You don't need to rub it in.

MARGIT: How many brothers and sisters did Grandpa {name starts with a T} have?

SHIRLEY: Only one brother.

MARGIT: That's Thomas.

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: And then there was {name?} married to Davis.

SHIRLEY: No. I don't remember. There's a whole bunch of them. Six and better. Same way with the {inaudible} one brother.

MARGIT: Yeah.

NICOLE: The family members' names you keep mentioning are sort of confusing to me.

MARGIT: Her mother was a {sounds like Slag}, and so on the {sounds like Slag} side there was five girls and one boy?

SHIRLEY: I don't know how many. I can't remember. And {woman's name, starts with L, ends with an a} too, you forgot her.

MARGIT: May.

SHIRLEY: Jessie.

MARGIT: Jessie. There's six girls and one boy.

RANDOLPH: Yeah.

MARGIT: And then on the Dean side, there-

SHIRLEY: I don't think I can name all of those.

MARGIT: Well, start naming some of them. There's Thomas.

SHIRLEY: There was Al -- I'm blank. And Ann.

MARGIT: Aunt Ann is another?

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: Now where do the Jagers fit? Was that from a sister, the Jagers came?

SHIRLEY: Yeah, that was Aunt Liz.

MARGIT: Aunt Liz? Ok, that's one.

SHIRLEY: She was a younger - she grew up one of the two youngest ones. I can't think of all there names. That's been a long time ago, you're making me think back.

MARGIT: Well now, did you actually know them?

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: They were living when?

SHIRLEY: Oh yeah.

RANDOLPH: Sit around the table and eat with them.

SHIRLEY: I can't recall their names. There's Aunt Elle, Aunt Belle, Aunt Anne, Aunt Liz, there's some more. {name?} was {name?}'s mother, but {name?} was her name. I don't remember, it's gone.

NICOLE: I can come back another day and get that.

SHIRLEY: It probably won't come between then. Because I can't remember.

RANDOLPH: We have various albums you can look at.

MARGIT: No, they're not here. They're at my house. Well, I don't even know if there be any pictures of them, though. The one of Grandpa's.

SHIRLEY: No, it's mostly-

MARGIT: It's after.

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

NICOLE: I'm going to switch back to questions about the land, unless you have any-

SHIRLEY: Alright.

NICOLE: Would you consider selling the land?

SHIRLEY: No.

NICOLE: Okay. Why not?

SHIRLEY: I think it should be in the family, and they should keep the Buttes intact. That's what I feel.

NICOLE: You think all the current owners should just keep the land in their families?

SHIRLEY: When they do that, as soon as the second, third generation gets a hold of it, they sell it. She better not! {laughing}

MARGIT: {inaudible}

RANDOLPH: Can't be bothered

SHIRLEY: {inaudible}

RANDOLPH: It works pretty good, huh.

MARGIT: They're going to have the ashes scattered up there, so they'll be there to--

RANDOLPH: {overlapping} Be there to watch out.

MARGIT: Yeah.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}

NICOLE: Do you have any memories of flooding in the Valley, or anything?

MARGIT: Flooding.

SHIRLEY: Not 'til the '55 flood, I don't remember anything before that.

MARGIT: You kept saying that grandpa put the calves up on the-

SHIRLEY: That's what he told me.

MARGIT: You don't even remember that?

SHIRLEY: I didn't see it.

MARGIT: Oh.

SHIRLEY: If I did, I was too little.

MARGIT: Yeah. So 1955 is really your first experience?

SHIRLEY: That's what I think about it.

RANDOLPH: We had another flood go through the ranch out there in 1967. But it was before any levies were built south of us, so the water didn't back up. It just went straight through.

MARGIT: We're talking about lower-

RANDOLPH: Talking about from Sacramento to San Francisco.

MARGIT: In '55 lower ranch, and the levies around like this, and so the water came around from this way. So it backed up, and it was five feet deep beside the house, which is on several steps up off the ground. So they thought about moving out in '55.

SHIRLEY: Oh God, I don't even remember this.

RANDOLPH: Yes you do.

SHIRLEY: Well, you was working, he was in the Navy. And he had Navy here, that was stationed on guard in {inaudible}. Well, he called up and told me the levy broke, "Get your folks out of there." So I rode out to the ranch, grandpa said "I'm not going to move. We'll put them up on the levy and you'll be alright." Well pretty soon there went Percy Davis up the road with his bunch of cattle. And he says "The water's right behind me and its coming". What'd I do? I, it was a big day, it takes a whole day to drive cattle up to the Buttes. So, I had a bunch of sailors on horseback.

MARGIT: And you got us kids, we were staying at the Slag house in Sutter. And that was in third grade, so I was pretty little still, and my brother was older.

SHIRLEY: That was you and John

MARGIT: I don't know why she asked us to come, to bring us down there, so I didn't take a pillow or anything. It was, you know December. So I was not very well prepared to ride a horse all day, and drive up to the Buttes. And then when you view Pass Road, it goes out-

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} It was nothing but solid traffic.

MARGIT: Solid traffic. And the people wanted out of Yuba City.

SHIRLEY: And I said "Just leave me alone, I'm going to turn in a little bit". They can't go very well coming into the middle of them, cattle don't move away that much. So I was leading horses, I was in a mess. I had my father who was in his eighties on a horse, likely kill him. And I had John and you. And that was my crew. And I had all the cattle going. And the oldest one had taken the calves and the pigs in pick-up off the Buttes, and he didn't come back, and he didn't wait for me. Course he'd been under strain for days, because the levy was high and they were warning him, so {inaudible}.

MARGIT: Well was that when you hit the car with the bullwhip? That was later, wasn't it?

SHIRLEY: That was later when we were coming bringing them out.

MARGIT: Was it, oh, after the flood?

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: That same year?

SHIRLEY: Crazy guy.

NICOLE: Why did you hit his car with a bullwhip?

SHIRLEY: Well he was going burst himself right through my band of cows, and I got little calves, I got everything. Instead of going in front of us, {inaudible} crazy guy. I had a bunch of city people help me, they go through and they get up front and they stay there, instead of coming back to make-

MARGIT: Another path through. 'Cause you're driving this herd of cows, and this is on the roads. And so there'd be one person out in front on a horse, to kind of keep, if something scared the cattle, to keep them from running down the road. Well then if a car came from behind, a person on a horse would come push the cows across, and the cows would, you know. Then the car could come through. Then the rider would be up there and go back after letting the car through.

SHIRLEY: {laughing} I had a fit, I was there in the back, and they'd picked up those calves, and the cows are fighting to go back - I don't want to do that ever again.

MARGIT: No, that was not a good drive down. 'Cause we usually did it in - oh, we'd start at dawn, up in the Buttes, and then we'd be down at the home ranch probably around one o'clock or two o'clock, for a light lunch. Well that time we ended up staying overnight just at the base of the Buttes at a friend's corral. And the corral didn't have any water. So the next day we started out with cows who are thirsty to start with. Got down here to the bypass, smell water, and they went into it, and it's a huge canal. So they would keep going in to there, then they couldn't get back out, it's just awful.

SHIRLEY: We had to track in there, try to pull them out. Hair-raising, awful.

MARGIT: The other cattle drives were a lot better than that one.

SHIRLEY: And that guy was going to blow his way right through, wasn't going to listen to me or anything. So I smacked his car with my bullwhip, I could've smacked him good! {laughing}. But whether it struck him or not, made me feel better.

MARGIT: I thought it startled him.

SHIRLEY: Do you know what a bullwhip is?

NICOLE: Yes, I do.

RANDOLPH: She's an expert. You ought to see my {inaudible}.

MARGIT: Oh yeah.

SHIRLEY: Well I could still see my helpers, they'd go through the band, get up front. Nobody ever came back. And I had a mile to go and all that.

MARGIT: So now we drive them with a trailer.

SHIRLEY: We don't drive anymore, that's it. Too many kids, too many bicycles, too many dogs.

MARGIT: Too many cars.

SHIRLEY: Too many cars

RANDOLPH: Too many cars.

NICOLE: When did you stop driving?

MARGIT: Well, 1960 - early sixties. Because it was, had to have been after they got the road in better shape. And it was '65 when I graduated, and that was kind of the year I had to--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} We worked on the road.

MARGIT: Yeah, worked on the road, 1964 or '65.

SHIRLEY: They put chips on the road, and she had a terrible time, because she'd spin out. Did you have to unload them one time?

MARGIT: Oh one time, yeah, I couldn't get up the hill. And we had to unload the cows then drive them up the hill.

SHIRLEY: A lot of fun being a rancher.

NICOLE: When did you stop ranching? When did you scale down how much you were up there?

SHIRLEY: When I got too old.

MARGIT: About the last two years. She's been out there.

SHIRLEY: I can go and tell her what to do, but they don't listen to me. {inaudible} I still boss! {laughing}.

MARGIT: It's just in the last two years she hasn't been out as much.

SHIRLEY: Well the cows are bigger than I am now, and when they come towards me I want to give. Before I never did.

MARGIT: They were still bigger than you.

SHIRLEY: They were still, but I fought them off. Except that cow Cara, she scared me.

MARGIT: Well you should've seen the one that put Janet up the fence.

SHIRLEY: I saw her.

MARGIT: That's from the middle of the big corral!

SHIRLEY: I saw Janet when she was up on the fence. That wasn't by a cow though?

MARGIT: It was.

SHIRLEY: Oh, it was?

MARGIT: Yes.

SHIRLEY: Well, you got rid of her, didn't you?

MARGIT: Yes.

SHIRLEY: Don't want any one of those kind. And I got a fighting chicken, I don't want any of those kind.

MARGIT: {laughing} You just need to take it back.

SHIRLEY: Well, my father had so many chickens and turkeys up there. And that's a trouble, because the turkeys go out and hide their nests, and then you follow that old hen and see where she's nesting. And turkey had wander all over the place, finally she'd go to her nest and we could get the eggs out. That was something else.

MARGIT: So did you let them continue to sit on the eggs?

SHIRLEY: Yeah, then he - I forgotten how he got them in there to sat on the eggs, but they did. That was in the {inaudible}. 'Cause when they're out there {inaudible}.

MARGIT: {inaudible} them up individually

SHIRLEY: Yeah. Got their eggs.

MARGIT: And the, we had, there was a chicken brooder too.

SHIRLEY: {inaudible} and his chicken {inaudible}

NICOLE: A chicken brooder?

MARGIT: Yeah.

RANDOLPH: They put eggs in it.

SHIRLEY: Put eggs in it. And there's heat. We use kerosene lamps. But you got to turn those eggs all the time. So there's a chore to it. And they'd hatch and we put them in it - I lost the word. The breeder was where we put the chickens in. The other thing, what did they call that?

MARGIT: What, the eggs?

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: I thought that was the brooder. They would, so they would have to keep the little chicks warm too.

SHIRLEY: Yeah. So they would move them to another piece of equipment. But the turkeys were different, they had to, I don't know how he caught those turkeys.

MARGIT: So did you go out at night maybe, when they're all sitting on their nests?

SHIRLEY: See I wasn't there all the time, and he had Charlie, and he'd help him.

NICOLE: Is that something you did as a kid, as a chore then, to turn the eggs and find if--

SHIRLEY: {overlapping} I didn't do it, I think he must have, or somebody else. Because there was a lot of eggs to turn, and he'd do it.

MARGIT: She would stay down in Sutter to go to school during the week. And you go up on the weekends?

SHIRLEY: Yeah.

MARGIT: Because it was, it took too long to go down the hill to go to school each day.

NICOLE: What would you do in winter when it was really cold, how did you get down to school, if you were up there?

SHIRLEY: I don't hear her.

MARGIT: You'd, we'd ride in the cold.

SHIRLEY: Cold make no difference, you'd go anyway.

NICOLE: Well, because I heard from somewhere that there's some kind of place where some girls would come down from the Buttes and stay when it was really cold. And then go to school from there.

MARGIT: It was a boarding - wasn't there a boarding house or something in Sutter?

SHIRLEY: For the high school kids.

MARGIT: Back in high school was when - they would come from a longer distance?

SHIRLEY: Yeah, around East {street name?}. I don't know where they came from, Live Oak, East {sounds like midlands?}, particularly down that way.

RANDOLPH: Sutter Town, Sutter, {inaudible}.

NICOLE: Well, I think that's all the questions that I have.

SHIRLEY: I think you'd better come to the Buttes so we can educate you.

RANDOLPH: {inaudible}.

INTERVIEW ENDS. SIDE 2 OF TAPE, STOPPED.